

**BC Courthouse Library partners with public libraries
in a new project: *LawMatters – at your local public library***

The British Columbia Courthouse Library Society (BCCLS) is pleased to announce LawMatters, the new public library legal resources project that will provide all British Columbian residents with local access to basic legal information.

Supported by the Law Foundation of British Columbia, the LawMatters project objectives are to provide public libraries with:

- Financial assistance for purchase of appropriate legal resources
- Bibliographies of recommended current resources
- Research guides on specific legal topics
- Training for public library staff
- Reference and referral support
- Consultation and advice for local libraries

BCCLS has a provincial network of courthouse libraries which will work cooperatively at both the local and provincial level with public libraries and their provincial agency, the Public Library Services Branch of the Ministry of Education. The LawMatters project will rely on the existing work of public libraries and their history of providing public access to legal information. Law librarians at the BCCLS will act as consultants, trainers, and expert resources to local public libraries.

LawMatters will also enhance the capacity of public legal education (PLE) publishers in BC to distribute materials to public libraries. Public libraries will be informed of all new PLE publications and PLE providers in turn will be able to use the LawMatters partnership to disseminate their materials to libraries.

LawMatters will begin with a consultation process and several pilot projects (Squamish, Surrey and Vancouver Island Regional Public Libraries) in 2007 and the full program will be implemented in 2008. The British Columbia Courthouse Library Society and public libraries are working together to ensure that the public has access to appropriate legal resources.

For more information, contact:

Janet Freeman, LawMatters Project Coordinator
BC Courthouse Library Society
800 Smithe St., Vancouver, BC V6Z 2E1
t: 604.660.9204/1.800.665.2570
f: 604.660.2821
janet.freeman@bccls.bc.ca
www.bccls.bc.ca